

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 776

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to commend William Hancock upon sixty years of distinguished service as an employee of the Richland Country Club.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize an estimable gentleman who has dedicated his career and personal excellence to the hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, William Hancock is a sterling individual whose personal and professional decorum is of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, for the past sixty years, William "Billy" Hancock has served as a devoted full-time employee of the Richland Country Club, earning the admiration and respect of thousands of current and former Richland Country Club members, their families and guests, and countless visitors to the Club; and

WHEREAS, although his official title has been "Maître d' Club" for more than fifty years of his tenure with the Club, most know him as "Richland's Finest Ambassador"; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hancock was born on May 11, 1932, in DeKalb County to Marvin and Nettie Hancock, the oldest of four children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hancock commenced his career in hospitality and food service at the Hermitage Hotel in 1947, where he was employed as a waiter for several years; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, Billy Hancock enlisted in the United States Air Force; he trained and specialized in food service and was honorably discharged in 1956, having attained the rank of Sergeant after successful tours at Air Force bases in Texas, Washington, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to Tennessee, Mr. Hancock joined the staff of the Richland Country Club as a waiter; two years later, he was promoted to head waiter; and

WHEREAS, since 1962, Billy Hancock has acted as the Richland Country Club's prominent dining service host as the Maître d' Club; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Hancock has provided all levels of food and beverage service to members and guests of the Richland Country Club – from the highest protocol formal events to the most casual family and business gatherings; and

WHEREAS, during his sixty-year tenure at Richland Country Club, he has presided over cake-cutting ceremonies for over 1,200 weddings and has provided this service to three generations of extended family brides and grooms; and

WHEREAS, all told, William Hancock has provided hospitality and goodwill to over five generations of Nashville families and Richland Country Club members; celebrities and business and governmental leaders have all acknowledged his singular service; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Governor Buford Ellington presented "Mr. Billy" with a commemorative tie tack that he wears and cherishes to this day; and

WHEREAS, William "Billy" Hancock is a noble and proud gentleman, a true credit to his profession, and a man worthy of emulation and veneration; and

WHEREAS, having worked with, supervised, trained, and mentored some of the finest food servers and waiters in Nashville for six decades, Billy Hancock still maintains an active work week at Richland Country Club, welcoming members and guests of all ages; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Hancock is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Mary, and his three children; and

WHEREAS, William "Billy" Hancock is wholly deserving of our approbation as he celebrates his sixtieth anniversary as an employee of the Richland Country Club; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Richland Country Club's finest ambassador, William Hancock, for sixty years of distinguished service as a trusted and loyal employee of the Richland Country Club.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.